



Position Update

This quarter provided multiple opportunities for training and outreach. GPGI year 2 is a much anticipated program once again. With the constant fire season this year, and still being extremely dry going in to the dormant season, cedar removal is once again taking the spotlight of producers concerns. With fall EQIP coming up, we've begun the process of education, and getting applications to producers that need assistance for such practices.



A GPGI prospective property along the Cimmaron River. These canyons are complex to burn, but are a lot of fun!

Another Year

GPGI is heading in the right direction. Several neighboring landowners together have gotten together and applying for the program, forming the beginnings of core areas. Couple that with recent wildfires, and the potential is there to make a difference in a relatively short amount of time.

Conservation Planning

- 11 Landowner Contacts
- 8 Site Visits
- 5 Projects with Acres

Other Programs	Acres Assessed	Acres Impacted
CTA USDA/Nonprogram/State Cost Share		
EQIP Brush Management, Conservation Cover, Forest Stand Improvement, Wetland Restoration, Prescribed Fire		6,185.5
OLAP		30
CRP General, Grasslands		
GPGI Brush Management, Prescribed Grazing/ burning, IPM	2,000	
Total	2,000	6,215.5



Local SWCDs

Thank you so much for your support! Without this partnership, I wouldn't be able to provide assistance to private landowners and positively impact conservation in Oklahoma!



Outreach & Education

- I attended a fire focus group meeting here in Woodward with other fire managers in this region, and with the mesonet. Together we discussed strategies and other topics on fire management from both the wildfire side, and the prescribed fire side.
- I assisted the Z Bar Ranch in Kansas conduct a prescribed fire field day. There were many folks from both Kansas and Oklahoma there, as well as folks from Nebraska.
- I attended the 2022 Great Plains Fire Summit in North Platte Nebraska. This was a multi day event covering various aspects of prescribed fire from research and landowner views. We also toured the Loess Canyons and saw first hand their efforts to halt cedar encroachment.
- I gave several grassland presentations to various groups at different events across the state.

There were over 50 landowners present at the Z Bar Prescribed fire day!

Outreach & Education	Count
Newsletter Articles/State Facebook Articles Written	1
Conservation/Outreach Event	4
Workshops	1
Total	6



Coordinating Wildlife Biologist **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



Tanner Swank - Northwest Oklahoma

July–September 2022



During the film tour of GPGI projects and interviews for the film.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
PFQF District Meeting	Gave an update to farm bill programs and how QF is helping NRCS implement them in NW OK, and the impact associated.
GPGI Film	Gave interview and was consultant to a film crew for the OK portion of a film that is being produced on grasslands.
GPGI Training	Provided refresher training for field staff. More to come this fall.
WHEG Training	Provided refresher WHEG training for field staff and new employees.

Looking Forward

- I will be continuing to promote GPGI through NW OK. It is a rapidly growing and evolving program, that has universal support. Between it and EQIP Monarch, we may be able to make a dent.
- I will be working with partners to host outreach meetings across the NW region, regarding programs and cedar removal. USFWS and ODWC will be assisting with these meetings as well.
- I will begin assessing and conducting the field portion of applications that are received in the

coming months

- I will be continuing to do the rain dance, hopefully we keep getting some rains out here, and that the oven turns off that's baking us!
- Hunting season finally has arrived, and hopefully bring cooler temps with it.
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**If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.*



Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Leslie (Welch) Elmore- Statewide

July - September 2022

Position Update

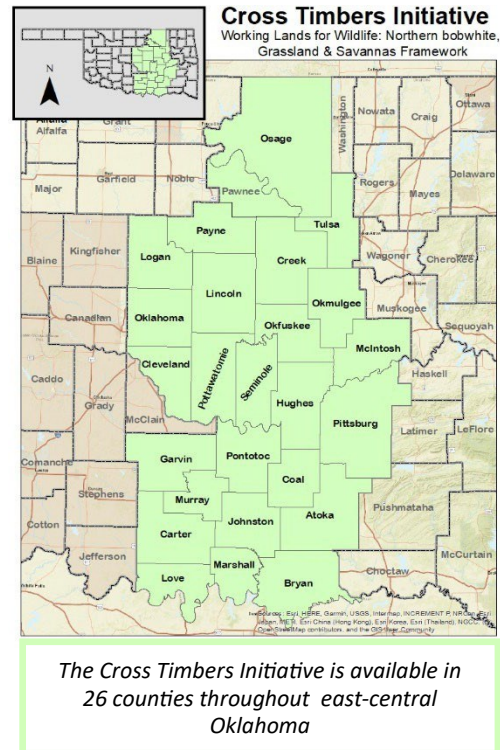
My position as Coordinating Wildlife Biologist (CWB) is changing to CWB II. The focus of my job position is also shifting slightly—in addition to Monarch Butterflies, Oklahoma NRCS is has a concerted effort to support Northern Bobwhite through Working Lands for Wildlife and EQIP's Cross Timbers Initiative.

Cross Timbers are for the Birds!

The Cross Timbers Initiative has been available through EQIP for several years with limited adoption by the counties. Big changes in 2023 are opening up eligibility in an effort to gain wider acceptance.

Because the Initiative dollars are supporting Working Lands for Wildlife-Northern Bobwhite, Grasslands, and Savanna in 2023, the Initiative will be more bobwhite-focused. Grasslands will get more attention, too. The minimum percentage of savanna soils on a property are a thing of the past.

I have been working with NRCS staff to update the ranking and screening tools and rework the Bobwhite WHEG to reflect the new approach, which is expected to result in better bobwhite habitat, healthier plant communities, and better served producers in Oklahoma.



Other Programs	Acres Impacted
EQIP-Monarch Initiative	
420 - Wildlife Habitat Planting	1.5
511 - Forage Harvest Management	262.5
647—Early Successional Habitat Dev't	7.5
Total	271.5

Conservation Planning
♦ 26 landowner contacts
♦ 7 site visits
♦ 1 seed mix
♦ 2 conservation plans
♦ 7 conservation proposals



Local SWCDs

Thank you so much for your support!

Without this partnership we would not be able to provide assistance to private landowners and positively impact conservation in Oklahoma!

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Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Leslie Elmore - Statewide

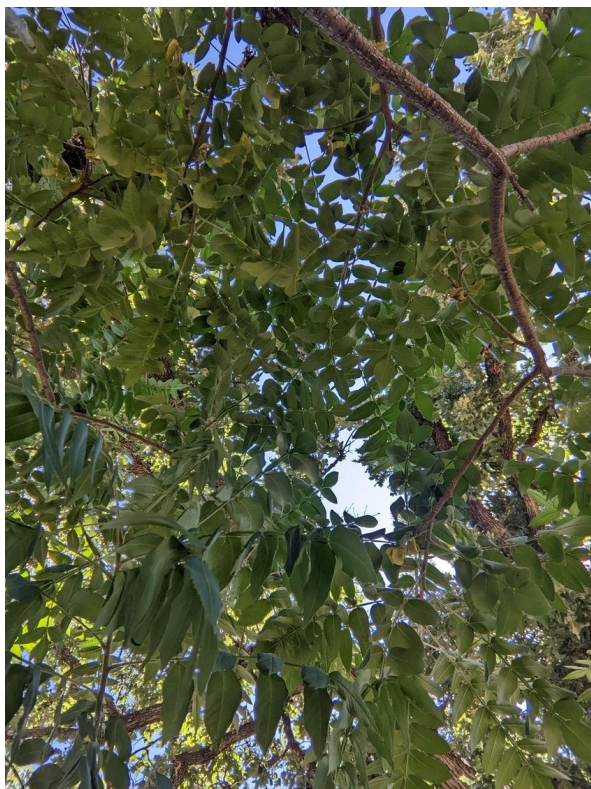
July - September 2022

Outreach & Education

- I presented the Cross Timbers Initiative funding the Working Lands for Wildlife - Bobwhite and how practices can improve or create bobwhite habitat at the 2022 OK-QF District Meeting.
- I talked to attendees of Lexington WMA's Prescribed Fire Field Day about how the Cross Timbers Initiative could help landowners wanting to improve wildlife habitat.
- I helped field questions during PF/QF's Pollinator Habitat Working Group "Pollinator Week" webinar.



Prescribed Fire Field Day at Lexington WMA



Bird's eye view of thermal refuge in sumac.



Outreach & Education	Count
Events/Workshops	3
Participants	129
Presentations Delivered	2
Social Media Articles	1
Total	6

Leslie Elmore

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Coordinating Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Leslie Elmore- Statewide

July - September 2022



Closed canopy woodlands are targeted under Working Lands for Wildlife and EQIP's Cross Timbers Initiative.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
National Bobwhite & Grassland Initiative	The annual meeting was held in St. Louis, MO. The presentations were good; the networking was even better.
Forestry Training	Jack Heinen, NRCS State Forester, trained Zach and me on variable plot and fixed plot methods for estimating BA and trees/ac near Liberty, OK.
Coordination with NRCS State Offices: WLFW Northern Bobwhite Monitoring Plans	Drs. James Martin and Jess McGuire discussed how monitoring of bobwhite populations on project sites would be conducted and how Working Lands for Wildlife is taking a targeted approach to bobwhite conservation.
webinars	I learned about invasive forest pests from Dr. Kelly Oten, at NC State. In "Ecology & Management of the Firebird" by Mark Sasser, Alabama Quail Program Coordinator from Tall Timbers Research Station, I learned about how Tall Timbers conducts fires, predator trapping, supplemental feeding, hunting, and translocation of wild birds to reestablish populations in suitable areas.

Looking Forward to ...

- Finalizing tools to be used in Cross Timbers assessments
- Training partner biologists with the new tools
- Great Plains Grassland Initiative focus group meetings and assessments
- Presenting my career journey to OSU undergraduates

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Field Staff

Quarterly Partners' Report



Zach Brewer - Northeast Oklahoma Counties

July-October 2022

In August and September, I went out and conducted several range inventory surveys for potential EQIP contracts in northern Okmulgee county and have helped with several site visits and outreach days around my area. I have made it to all of the counties NRCS offices I serve here in Northeast Oklahoma. Lately I have been assisting NRCS office staff with burn plan writing while also helping new NRCS employees with potential burn plan in the fall of 2023.



Conservation Planning

- 14 Landowner Contacts
- 11 New Cooperator
- 3 Habitat Proposals & Conservation Plan
- 13 Site Visits
- 8 Survey and data Collection
- 4 NRCS Planner Training

Thank you so much for your support! Without this partnership, I wouldn't be able to provide assistance to private landowners and positively impact conservation in Oklahoma!

Other Programs	Acres Impacted
State Cost Share- Burn Plan	5.8
State Cost Share -420	5.8
CSP-420	.06
CTA Grazing Plan(528)	451.62
CTA Burn Plan (338)	11.14
CTA Conservation Cover	11.14
CTA Cover Crop	
Total	486



Field Staff

Quarterly Partners' Report



Outreach & Education

July-October 2022

- On July 16, I attended the **Indian Territory QF Youth Event** . I was able to talk to event attendees about the importance of pollinator and habitat. Also was able to give the kids at the event a talk about what a biologist does.
- On July 20th, I attended the **Tall Grass Heritage QF Chapter** banquet and presented myself at the meeting in
- On September 22th, I attended the Bird dogs & Brews event for the **Big Bluestem QF Chapter**. I was able to meet with the event participants about the up coming .
- On August 8th, I attended the Woman on the wing event put on **Big Bluestem QF Chapter** in Bartlesville, Ok
- On October 4th, I helped with a Outdoor Class Room for the **Nowata Conservation District** at Youth Pollinator event in Nowata, OK



This photo was taken at the Bird dogs & brews event in Dewey, Oklahoma. I was able to talk to the event participants about upcoming hunting season answer any questions about bird biology.

- **Bird dogs & Brews** was put on by the **Big Bluestem QF Chapter** as part of there community outreach efforts in educating the public about **Bobwhite Quail** habitat and how landowner can improve habitat on their property .

Outreach & Education	Count
Presentations Delivered	2
Outreach Events	7
Total	9



Field Staff

Quarterly Partners' Report



Zach Brewer - Northeast Oklahoma Counties

July-October 2022

Biologist's Point of View - Outreach Evening



This photo was taken at the Rogers County Farm Bureau Award and members meeting at Claremore Holiday Inn on September 27th

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Oklahoma Wildlife Foundation Gala	Attending the gala to network with both private landowner and staff at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation . This will be a good way for me to get
NRCS Culture Resource training	Completed for the NRCS to become a certified level 1 planner here in Oklahoma.

Looking Forward

- This upcoming quarter, I plan to focus on writing EQIP specific habitat proposals for landowners in Northeast Oklahoma Counties to promote implementation of conservation practices to provide quality wildlife habitat.
- I will continue providing technical assistance to landowners who are working on current projects as well as those who want to plan for new projects
- Opening of Oklahoma Quail season

**If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.*

